(b) if so, by when the review will be done;

(c) whether the performance of exporters has not been satisfactory over the years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Government receives requests regarding provisions of export policy in force from time to time. These are attanded to on merits as and when received. Government announced the Annual Supplement to the Foreign Trade Policy on 19.4.2007.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise.

No habitation zone along Indo-Bangladesh border

*493. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Boder Security Force has urged for creation of 'no habitation zone' in 150 yards along the Indo-Bangladesh border, for effective surveillance; and

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) BSF has not submitted any specific proposal for creation of 'No Habitation Zone' within 150 yards from Indo-Bangladesh Border. They are providing effective surveillance along the International Border up to 'Zeo line' irrespective of the presence of habitation within 150 yards.

Opening of closed tea estates

*494. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has drawn up schemes for re-opening of closed tea estates in various parts of the country, especially in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed scheme; and

(c) the steps proposed for profitability and sustainability of the tea industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A package for rehabilitation of closed/sick tea gardens is being worked out in consultation with concerned Ministries, Departments and Organizations.

(c) The Government has set up Special Purpose Tea Fund (SPTF) for financing replantation and rejuvenation of old tea bushes aimed at improving the productivity of the tea gardens. Under the Scheme, the borrower is required to contribute only 25% of the cost, 50% will be loan from SPTF and 25% subsidy from the Government. The scheme is expected to result in increasing the yield, lowering the cost of production and in improving the quality of teas leading to higher price realization. Further, to improve value addition process, financial assistance to the extent of 25% of the cost is given for modernization of machinery under the Quality Upgradation & Product Diversification Scheme (QUPDS). To create market for Indian Tea, extensive promotional programmes are undertaken both within the country and internationally. These steps would result in higher profitability for the tea sector.

Attainment of cognizable regional power

*495. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that our Naval Chief had said in February, that 'Indian Ocean region has become the *de-facto* home of global terrorism with regional powers covertly or overtly, aiding and abetting subversive elements'

(b) if so, whether our avowed aim to become congnizable regional power would be achieved, in the foreseable future; and

(c) whether a synergy syndrome would be created through collective efforts of all the associated agencies, to quicken this process?